White House: Laundering the VIP

By Maxine Cheshire

Tricia Nixon Cox brings her laundry down from New York to be done by the White House laundresses. But only her "finer things," says a spokesman for the First Family, "things that have to have special, delicate care." The practice has caused disgruntlement among some White House servants, and that's how the word leaked out . . . Former presidential assistant John D. Ehrlichman, who is leaving Washington in mid-July, is reportedly returning to Seattle . . .

New York architect I. M. Pei, who designed the John F. Kennedy Library in Massachusetts, is "embarrassed" about an anti-Nixon button designed and distributed by one of the younger men in his office. The designer took his boss' initials "IMP," and added the letters "each" in a handsome design. About 250 of the buttons were given visitors to the Pei office before he found out and put a stop to it.

When David Eisenhower first started writing his summer sports column for the Philadelphia Bulletin last month, conservatively dressed young men in business suits played copy aide and delivered his manuscripts to the newspaper's Washington bureau office. Some Bulletin employees suspected the "messengers" were Secret Service agents. "Absolutely not," says a Secret Service spokesman.

Former Maryland Sen. Joseph Tydings' wife is filing for divorce. She went out socially the other night for the first time since she made her decision and was calling it her "coming out" party . . . At the same party, Mrs. Tydings found that she has a lot in common with another guest, Mieke Tunney, who is in the process of divorcing California Sen. John Tunney.

Former Attorney General John Mitchell's telephone in his New York apartment may or may not be bugged. But he did have trouble with eavesdropping until his wife, Martha, went away last week. One reporter who talked regularly with Mitchell says he was harassed constantly by Mrs. Mitchell, who picked up an extension and listened to everything . . . Barbara Howar called a local bookstore the other day to see how Elliott Roosevelt's unflattering book about his parents, "The Roosevelts of Hyde Park," was doing in Washington. The store had only one request for the gossipy family memo, a clerk reported, and that order came from Alice Roosevelt Longworth.

'Finer Things'

When Julie Eisenhower told an audience that her husband and her mother had done the dishes the other night so that she could make her speaking engagement on time, she didn't mean that anyone in the family was in danger of getting dishpan hands. The $129,000 house she and David rent from Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo has a dishwasher . . .

Jacqueline Onassis' former unlisted phone number and those of dozens of other celebrities were auctioned off recently in New York in an old address book that belonged to Gore Vidal. It sold for $40.

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